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# THE OPI REPORT

Office of Public Instruction
Ed Argenbright, Superintendent
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

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OCTOBER 1985

## NWREL Fall Workshops

This fall and winter the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland, Oregon, will offer 13 professional workshops in a variety of topics of interest to educators.

Research-based school improvement, teaching reasoning skills, improving student self-image, educational equity issues and staff development are among the topics of one- and two-day workshops in October, November and December. Fees vary according to the length of the workshop, and most sessions are held in Portland. Graduate credit is available.

For registration materials and a complete description of workshops and their dates, contact your building principal or district office, or Dr. John Mahaffy, Director, Center for Professional Development, NWREL, 300 SW 6th Ave., Portland, OR 97204 (503-248-6800).

## NTE Core Battery Tests

Educators and prospective teachers are reminded that the National Teachers Examination Core Battery will be given this school year. The three separate two-hour tests are in the areas of communication skills, general and professional knowledge.

The NTE Core Battery is valid for the new teacher testing requirement passed by the Board of Public Education last spring. The rule, which requires that all teachers demonstrate competence in basic skills before they are initially certified to teach in Montana's public schools, is effective July 1986. Prospective teachers may be interested in taking the NTE exam early, during its 1985-86 cycle.

Test dates are April 5, 1986 (registration closes March 3) and June 28, 1986 (registration closes May 26). Information about registration, test centers, fees and score reporting is contained in the *NTE Bulletin of Information* available from local college test centers or: NTE Programs, Educational Testing Service, CN 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051.

## Workshop Highlights Asbestos Control for Schools

The National Asbestos Training Center of the University of Kansas will conduct conferences on "A Common Sense Approach to Asbestos Control for Schools" in Des Moines, Iowa (Oct. 28-29), Wichita, Kansas (Nov. 11-12) and Columbia, Missouri (Nov. 18-19).

The conferences are designed to help school administrators, board members, maintenance personnel and abatement coordinators understand the dangers of asbestos and implement abatement measures in their schools. Topics cover health effects, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements, problem evaluation, options for solutions, liability and insurance, public relations, financial resources and other areas.

For information, contact Dr. Sandy Hick, National Asbestos Training Center, KU Continuing Education, 5005 W. 95th St., Shawnee Mission, KS 66207 (913-648-5790).

## ASVAB Test Available

The Department of Defense is offering its updated version of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to interested schools. The test is designed for students in secondary (grades 11 and 12) and postsecondary schools.

The test's academic element measures a student's potential for further formal education and predicts performance in general areas requiring verbal and math skills. The occupational element tests student performance in several vocational areas: mechanical crafts; business and clerical; electronics and electrical; and health, social and technology.

Administration of the test, scoring and interpretation are provided free of charge to participating schools. Contact Gene Harris, Department of Defense Military Entrance Processing Station, PO Box 198, Butte, MT 59703-0189.

## Schools Can Fly Flag of Learning and Liberty

The strong link between liberty and learning, upon which American society is built, is symbolized in the Flag of Learning and Liberty, now available to schools from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

The flag incorporates the red, white and blue of the Stars and Stripes and symbolizes America's belief in education. The stylized flame at the flag's center represents learning, liberty and the foundation of education's high expectations, effective teaching, responsible families and involved communities.

Schools or businesses may obtain a Flag of Learning and Liberty (outdoor, indoor or classroom flags, pennants or lapel pins) from NSPRA, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209. Price lists are available.

## OPI Christmas Card Contest

Spread the word at your school that State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ed Argenbright, is inviting students to submit a drawing for the OPI Christmas Card Contest. The winning drawing will be used for OPI's Christmas card this year and will appear in the December issue of *Montana Schools*.

Students K-6 and in special education may send an entry through their teachers. The line drawing should be on white paper (8½ x 11 or 8½ x 14) in *black* ink, crayon or marker. Shaded areas, pencil or color do not reproduce well.

Include the student's name and grade, teacher, school and address. Specify if you want the drawing returned.

Send entries by *October 30* to Christmas Card Contest, Office of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620.

## Pioneer Day

The Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers and other organizations wish to remind schools that November 1 is officially Pioneer Day in Montana. Pioneer Day commemorates Montana pioneer life, heritage and people.

## Humanities Grants For Secondary Teachers

High school teachers may receive fellowships for independent summer study in the humanities through a special program sponsored by the Council for Basic Education.

The Independent Study in the Humanities program invites teachers to submit applications for $3,000 fellowships to study during the summer of 1986 in the area of humanities of their choice. Applicants must be full-time classroom teachers grades 9-12, with at least three-fifths of their schedule in the humanities, five years teaching experience in the humanities, a master's degree or the equivalent and plans to teach at least five more years.

The application deadline is December 1. Applications and information may be obtained from: Council for Basic Education, Independent Study in the Humanities, Dept. 06, CN6331, Princeton, NJ 08541-6331.

## School Directories

The *1985-86 Directory of Montana Schools* will soon be ready for distribution. Each school will receive a copy.

The directory is current as of September 15, 1985. You are encouraged to let OPI know of changes and updates of personnel, addresses, telephone numbers, etc., as they occur throughout the school year.

## New Law Governs Smoking in Public Buildings

This month a new law regarding smoking/nonsmoking areas in public buildings (including schools) will go into effect. The law says, "In offices and work areas in buildings maintained by the state or a political subdivision thereof in which seven or more employees of the state or political subdivision are employed, the manager or person in charge of the work area shall arrange nonsmoking and smoking areas in a convenient area."

If you have any questions about this regulation, call Bob Stockton at OPI (1-800-332-3402).

## Dates to Remember

| | |
|---|---|
| Oct. 10-11 | Board of Public Education<br>Great Falls (444-6576) |
| Oct. 25-26 | Families Under Stress Bringing Families Back to Health (Workshop)<br>Great Falls (761-2694) |
| Nov. 7-9 | Montana History Conference<br>Helena (444-2694) |
| Nov. 11-17 | National Book Week |

## Missing Children Information

The following is the State Department of Justice's most current list of missing Montana children and teenagers (17 years and under). Please consult the September special edition of *OPI Report* for a full list of missing children from nearby Western states.

| NAME | RACE | SEX | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | HAIR | EYE | CITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Berry, Dwayne E. | W | M | 5'11" | 190 | 062169 | BLN | GRN | Billings PD |
| Crame, Shannon R. | W | F | 5'4" | 115 | 052068 | BLN | BLU | Lincoln SO |
| Marshall, Nyleen K. | W | F | 3'2" | 29 | 091878 | BRO | BLU | Jefferson SO |
| Strutzel, Michael J. | W | M | 3'0" | 30 | 120481 | BLN | BLU | Butte/Silver Bow |

PD = Police Department
SO = Sheriff's Office

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Toll free education hot line
1-800-332-3402